

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Haines Area
COASTAL REGION

FOREST LAND USE PLAN/FINAL DECISION &
ACMP CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

for the

SINGLE FIFTEEN TIMBER SALE

SE 728 H

ADL 106627

February 2000

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Purpose: The purpose of this Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) is to provide sufficient information to reviewers to ensure that the best interest of the state will be served by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Forestry, Haines Area, offering for sale an estimated 2,229 thousand board feet (MBF) of timber by sealed competitive bid. The estimated volume consists of 1,401 MBF of spruce sawlog and utility log volume. The sale also contains an estimated 828 MBF of hemlock sawlog and utility log volume.

This timber will be harvested using a clear-cut silvicultural system. Harvest unit area is approximately 90 acres within one unit. The contract will run for three years.

- B. Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) Consistency: The draft Preliminary Decision/Forest Land Use Plan was distributed to state agencies notifying them of this proposed action on January 6, 2000. This document was noticed in the Haines newspaper on January 6, 2000.

This modified land use plan has been rewritten to include agency and public comments received up to and including February 4, 2000.

This action has been found consistent with the Alaska Coastal Management Program.

- C. Five-Year Sale Schedule: This sale has been listed in every Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS) since the schedule for fiscal year (FY) 1979 through FY 1984 was adopted. Each schedule has listed the Single Fifteen sale as totaling 170 acres. Since the FYSTS for FY 2000 – 2004 was adopted, the Haines Area has reduced the sale to one unit totaling approximately 90 acres. The proposed sale date has been changed from FY 2004 to the spring of FY 2000.

- D. Location: This timber sale is located in the Kelsall River drainage approximately 37 miles west northwest of Haines, Alaska (see attached map). The legal description of this proposed action is as follows: Within portions of Sections 15 & 22 T26S, R54E, Copper River Meridian. The action is within the boundaries of the Haines State Forest Resource Management Area. This sale is located within the Haines Borough and is outside the boundaries of the City of Haines Coastal Management Program. The regional native corporation is the Sealaska Native Corporation. Klukwan is the nearest community, and is located about 18 miles southeast of the sale. The sale area can be found on the United States Geological Service 1:63,360 Quadrangle map titled Skagway C-4.

E. Title, Classification and Other Active or Pending Interests: The sale area is located on general grant lands within the Haines State Forest. These lands at one time were part of the Original Mental Health Land Trust. A court settlement approved on December 6, 1994 removed these lands from the Mental Health Trust and reclassified them as general grant lands. This land is subject to the Haines State Forest Management Plan (HSFMP). This sale lies within subunit 1c of Management Unit number one, Kelsall River, of the HSFMP. This subunit has a primary land use designation of forestry and a secondary land use designation of fish & wildlife habitat. This action is consistent with the guidelines established in the HSFMP.

F. Objectives:

1. The primary objectives of this timber sale are to accelerate reforestation and provide jobs from logging and wood processing and to salvage spruce trees killed by spruce bark beetles. This sale will improve forest growth and vigor by replacing over mature defective hemlock trees and insect infected dying stands of spruce timber with new healthy stands while protecting and maintaining other resource values. The actions authorized under this action will follow the constitutional mandate of sustained yield and shall adhere to multiple use management.
2. To follow DNR's constitutional mandate to encourage the development of the state's renewable resources, making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest. Sustain and promote a healthy timber industry in the state, through providing a secure source of timber for harvest, and by providing a source of raw material (logs) for local manufacturing plants (e.g., mills) while protecting other resources such as fish and wildlife.
3. To enhance the state's economy. This sale will provide an estimated \$36,399.00 in royalties to the state in the form of stumpage receipts; an infusion of approximately \$ 300,000.00 to the state's economy through wages and purchases; and jobs and business, not only for Alaskan residents and companies directly involved in the timber industry, but also for those who provide supplies, equipment and sundries.

II. **LEGAL AUTHORITY**

The department is taking this action under the authority of AS 38.05.035(e) (Best Interest Finding); AS 38.05.110-120; 11 AAC 71 (Timber Sale Statutes and Regulations); AS 41.17.010-.950 and 11 AAC 95 (Forest Resources and Practices Statutes and Regulations); AS 46.40; 6 AAC 80 (Alaska Coastal Management Statutes and Regulations).

III. **ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

Case File ADL 106627 and the Haines State Forest Management Plan constitute the administrative record for this finding.

IV. **DISCUSSION OF ISSUES**

A. **BACKGROUND**

Topography: The sale is situated on flat to uniform sloped ground. General slopes average 40% and range from 0 to 60%. This area generally faces northeast. The elevation of the sale area is from 800 to 1300 feet above sea level.

Soils: Soils in the sale area are classified as a Klukwan-Foad Complex. A shallow organic layer of approximately 2 inches characterizes these soil types. Soil depth is moderately deep (20-40") to deep (over 60") and well drained. The mineral surface is silt loam with the subsoil a sandy or silt loam. The substratum is a very cobbly sandy loam to a depth of 60" or more and in some places schist bedrock at 20" to 30".

No caves or karst features were found during the timber cruise of the sale.

Water bodies: There are no lakes within or immediately adjacent to this proposed harvest area. The proposed harvest unit is at least 300 feet south of the Kelsall River. The Kelsall River is listed in the Anadromous Stream Catalog as containing king and coho salmon. There is one water quality creek that flows along the southeast boundary. This stream will be protected by contractual clauses requiring directional felling, yarding away from the creek and concurrent clean out. There are no other wetlands or riparian vegetation that influence the design and/or layout of this proposed sale.

Stand Conditions: The stand is a multi-cohort (composed of several different age groups) stand which range in age from saplings to trees 350 years old. The species are a mix of Sitka spruce and western hemlock. The hemlock contains significant heart rot and the spruce has been attacked by spruce bark beetle since 1990. 28% of the spruce in the sale have been killed by spruce bark beetle. There is no new attack evident in the live spruce trees although there is evidence of butt rot in them. There are approximately 40 hemlock trees and 120 square feet of basal area per acre. Average hemlock size is 24 inches DBH (diameter breast high). There are approximately 32 spruce trees and 114 square feet of basal area per acre. Average spruce size is 26 inches DBH.

Wildlife: This stand does not appear to support a large abundance of big game animals. Very little moose & bear sign was noted during the timber cruise of the area. In addition to moose and bear, the area may support the following species of wildlife; marten, lynx, wolverine, wolf, porcupine, squirrel, various birds and other small woods mammals. There is no evidence of high-density bear use within this proposed area. There are no

known raptor nests within the proposed sale area and the area has not been identified as important winter range for moose or goats. The HSFMP in a strategy to minimize the impacts of harvest on wildlife, prohibits timber harvest on about 21,595 acres of commercial old growth timber. It further spreads the harvest of the remaining 49,231 acres of commercial timber over a relatively long period of time. In addition, 13,360 acres of inoperable or inaccessible timber and the 49,000-acre Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve will not be harvested. The Kelsall watershed encompasses approximately 204,000 acres of which 32,000 acres lies within the U.S. and 16,100 acres (8%) within the Haines State Forest. There are a total of 10,249 acres of forestland within the Kelsall watershed of the Haines State Forest of which 5,742 acres are of commercial quality. Within the portion in the Haines State Forest, 3,273 acres have been harvested since 1966; 2,357 acres are now 25 to 35 years old and contain trees 20 to 50 feet tall. There has been little, if any, timber harvest in the Kelsall watershed, outside of the Haines State Forest. This timber harvest has not removed the forests from wildlife use but rather has changed the stage of development of the timber stands. Forest stands go through a process from stand initiation (regenerating stands) through stem exclusion stages (natural thinning) to under story reinitiation (two-age development) to climax stands (multi-aged stands). None of these stages are any less a part of the overall forest and the 2,357 acres of 30 year old stands provide habitat for some species of wildlife, although possibly not good winter habitat yet, for species which cannot handle deep snows.

Recreation: There are no known recreational trails within the general vicinity of this proposed sale. There are no airplane access points within the proposed sale area. This area is not known to have unique tourism values. At this time, there are no known commercial recreation operations that use this area. All terrain vehicle (ATV) use of this area is not known. The area may receive use for hunting, berry picking, hiking, snowmobiling, skiing, wildlife viewing and sight seeing.

Cultural: No evidence of any cultural or historic features was found within the sale area by Forestry staff. During the course of activities associated with this timber sale, cultural and/or paleontological resources may be inadvertently discovered. Should such discovery occur, the site shall be protected from any disturbance. The Office of History and Archaeology will be contacted immediately so that compliance with state laws governing cultural resources may begin.

Under the Alaska Historic Preservation Act (41.35.200), all burials on state land are protected. If burials or human remains are found, all land altering activities that would disturb the burial or remains shall cease and measures will be taken to protect it in place. The Office of History and Archaeology and a law enforcement officer will be notified immediately to ensure that proper procedures for dealing with human remains are followed.

Scenic: Visual impact from the sale will be low. The harvest area will not be visible from the Haines highway. The unit will only be visible from the Kelsall logging roads near the sale area.

Land Use: There is presently no other permitted land uses in the proposed area. No agricultural use or grazing is known to occur. Traditional use areas may exist but the sale will not adversely impact these uses. The affected watersheds will continue to be managed according to the land use designation found in the HSFMP.

Current Land Use: Currently, the public lands adjacent to this proposed sale area are being managed for timber, recreation, and fish & wildlife habitat.

Transportation: Main access to this area is by the Mosquito Lake Road to the Kelsall logging road. These roads are on general grant lands and are public use access roads.

B. EFFECTS ON WILDLIFE

The effects of the proposed timber sale on wildlife will vary depending on species. Species that prefer early successional vegetation will likely benefit for a period of time. Non-winter browse production may be increased for a period of years after harvest from the increased heat and sunlight that the openings will provide. Early successional vegetation is valuable for moose browse in summer and low-snow winters. The retention of adjacent unharvested stands will provide cover, winter forage, protection from deep snow, travel corridors and escape cover. As the new stand develops, in 30 to 40 years spruce and hemlock will occupy the site shading out the understory so that the benefits of increased browse production may be lost. It is expected that adjacent areas will be harvested at this time providing increased browse to compensate for this loss. The HSFMP intends to create a mosaic of stands in different age classes to provide benefits to many different species of wildlife. Logging is expected to have few direct impacts on wildlife populations. Harvesting activities may displace animals temporarily.

Impacts on the bear population are anticipated to be low. Bears may benefit from the increase in early successional vegetation following timber harvest as well. Wintertime forage and shelter is not a major concern for bears due to hibernation. Their welfare is traditionally most threatened by habitat conversion and improved hunter access. There is anticipated to be some impact to the population through habitat conversion. Harvesting activities may displace animals temporarily. Hunter access will be improved somewhat with this sale. The Division of Forestry can work with the Department of Fish & Game (DF&G) to control hunter access if necessary.

C. EFFECTS ON FISHERIES

The proposed harvest is anticipated to have insignificant impacts on fisheries. There is one fish stream adjacent to the harvest area, the Kelsall River. Harvest near this river will

be consistent with Section 41.17.118 RIPARIAN STANDARDS FOR STATE LANDS (a)(2) of the Alaska Forest Resources & Practices Act. No harvesting is proposed in the 300-foot fish habitat management zone bordering the Kelsall River. One water quality stream flows along the southeast boundary of the unit. This stream does not contain fish. The contract will require implementation of standard best management practices such as directional falling, yarding away from the creek and stream clean out upon completion of yarding.

D. EFFECTS ON SUBSISTENCE

The subject area has not been designated as a subsistence zone. This action is anticipated to have no deleterious effects on subsistence activities.

E. EFFECTS ON RECREATION

DNR expects the following recreation uses in the sale area: hunting, gathering activities, hiking, snowmobiling and skiing. This timber sale will provide for continued recreational access into this area as roads will be maintained and approximately 5,040 feet of new road will be constructed.

F. SUSTAINED YIELD/ALLOWABLE CUT

The Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17.060 (c)) and Article VII Section 4 of the State Constitution require that State Forest land be managed on a sustained yield basis. Sustained yield has been defined in the Forest Resources and Practices Act AS 41.17.950(15):

"Sustained Yield" means the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level of annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of forest land and water without significant impairment of the productivity of the land and water, but does not require that timber be harvested in a non-declining yield basis over a rotation period.

The allowable harvest for the Haines State Forest has been determined to be 69.6 million board feet (MMBF) per decade. Over the past decade, from January 1, 1989 through December 31, 1998, 43.4 MMBF of timber have been harvested from the Haines State Forest or about 62% of the allowable harvest. This sale will contribute to the allowable harvest volume.

G. REGENERATION

The unit will be harvested using a clear-cut silvicultural system. Due to the availability of seed trees after harvesting, there should be sufficient seed to establish a new crop naturally. However, to ensure adequate regeneration, the contract will require planting of

Sitka spruce following harvest. It is expected that the species composition of the future stand will be a Sitka spruce -hemlock mix similar to the existing stand.

H. HARVEST METHODS

The silvicultural prescription is clear-cutting. Harvesting will be a combination of cable and track vehicle equipment. Cable yarding will be required on all slopes greater than 30% slope. There should be sufficient soil disturbance to make a good seed bed for natural regeneration.

I. EROSION

There are two soil erosion concerns - surface erosion and mass wasting of soil and debris. Surface erosion is primarily caused by road construction. Surface erosion will be minimized by strict adherence to the contract guidelines and Forest Resources and Practices Act standards.

With regard to mass wasting and debris avalanches, such events normally occur on slopes over 66 percent (66%). Most of the slopes in the harvest area are less than this gradient. The use of a cable system should minimize this risk on the short pitches that exceed this slope. Harvesting may be suspended during periods of saturated soil conditions to assure there is minimal soil disturbance.

J. EFFECTS ON MINING

There has been no known mining activity in the vicinity of this proposed sale.

K. MATERIAL SOURCES

Approximately 5,040 feet of new road construction is necessary to access the sale area. Material sources have not yet been identified and are typically identified during road construction along the road right-of-way. DNR will consider other land uses when approving material sources.

L. ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Besides generating an estimated \$36,399.00 in royalties to the state, the proposed sales will create economic benefits in Haines and possibly other parts of Alaska. The total economic impact of this sale to the statewide economy is estimated to be \$300,000. The Haines business community will receive direct economic benefits from providing support services for the operators such as fuel, food, housing, medical and miscellaneous supplies. The residents of Haines will receive an indirect benefit through taxes paid to the city and borough by the operator and the employees and their families during the course of the timber harvest operation.

The timber sale will have an effect on local employment by generating an estimated 10 jobs directly associated with the harvest. The sale is expected to benefit the local economy by providing much needed jobs and possibly forest products for the local forest products industry. The sale of these logs adds potential employment opportunities and economic contributions to the community. This action is not expected to result in starting up the mill or adversely impacting any of the other industries in Haines. The total sale value of the products produced from the logs in this action is estimated to be \$ 300,000.

V. MARKET CONDITIONS

At present, there is a moderate demand for local forest products. The local market includes domestic sawlogs, houselogs, and firewood. Domestic sawlogs may be sold to local sawmills as has occurred in the recent past. The export market is fair at the present time. The pulp or chip market is depressed and demand is low. The demand from the local and export markets is expected to remain fair over the length of this proposed contract.

The economic conditions in the general vicinity of this proposed sale are fair. The current local economy is based on logging, fishing, and tourism. The local sawmill, historically the largest employer in the community, has been closed since April of 1991. Several small mobile dimension sawmills exist in the valley and have purchased most of the smaller sales over the past few years.

VI OBJECTIONS, COMMENTS AND ALTERNATIVES RECEIVED

Comments received on this sale are summarized below:

Comment: *The Single Fifteen sale must be considered in conjunction with the Thunder Creek sale and other cutting on the HSF, including past, present and future cutting on the Kelsall watershed. Constructing almost a mile of additional road, that will require unfunded maintenance, and clearcutting 90 additional acres will likely add incrementally to water quality impacts. Well over 50% of the commercial quality timber in this watershed have been harvested in the last 40 years. The cumulative effects of this past harvest should be considered. (F&G,LCC)*

Response: The Single Fifteen sale will provide needed maintenance to the existing mainline road in the valley and will repair the washouts which occurred this last December. Maintenance to the roads in the Haines State Forest has always been paid for through timber sale contracts. Although unfunded, a continuing program of timber sales has provided the maintenance needs to the State Forest roads. We will require the 3,385-foot spur accessing the lower portion of the unit to be closed upon completion of the sale.

The clearcut harvest will require cable yarding on slopes exceeding 30% and yarding adjacent to the one water quality stream on the south side of the unit will require directional falling and yarding away from the stream course and stream clean out upon completion of yarding. There is no harvest proposed in the 300-foot fish habitat management zone bordering the Kelsall River. These contractual requirements should ensure protection of the water quality during timber harvest of this sale.

The discussion in the Forest Land Use Plan under section IV Discussion of issues (A.) Background under "wildlife" about the harvesting in the Kelsall watershed would apply equally to water quality and impacts to fish habitat as a result of incremental timber harvest. This section describes the 204,000-acre Kelsall watershed in which 32,000 acres lie within the United States and 16,100 acres (8%) within the Haines State Forest. There are a total of 10,249 acres of forestland within the Kelsall watershed of the Haines State Forest of which 5,742 are of commercial quality. Within the portion in the Haines State Forest, 3,273 acres have been harvested since 1966; 2,305 acres are now 25 to 35 years old and contain trees 20 to 50 feet tall. There has been little, if any, timber harvest in the Kelsall watershed, outside of the Haines State Forest. The 2,305 acres now approximately 30 years old are on relatively flat ground and the access roads have grown over so that it is now difficult to walk most of them and it is unlikely that they add much to the incremental water quality impacts you refer to. Further, buffers have been left along the entire Kelsall and Nataga Creeks with the exception of the area near the Kelsall bridge crossing further minimizing water quality impacts.

In summary, more than 50% of the commercial timber in the Kelsall watershed portion within the Haines State Forest has been harvested but this is a small part of the entire watershed and much of this has grown back into a young growth forest stand providing protection of water quality.

Comment: *The ecological value of the dead trees is more important than salvaging the wood value. (LCC)*

Response: We agree that dead trees do play a vital role in the ecology of the forest. The effect of the spruce bark beetle in this area has been substantial in killing large numbers of trees. The cruise for the single fifteen sale showed that 11.5 spruce trees per acre were dead or fading or about 36% of the spruce trees and 16% of the total trees on the sale. The Thunder Creek sale cruise completed in 1995 showed 17.7 spruce tree per acre were dead or fading or about 37% of the spruce trees and 23% of the total trees on the sale. The leave areas on both sides of the Kelsall have similar amounts of spruce trees killed by spruce bark beetles assuring a large supply of dead trees for habitat in this area. Conversion of this area to a new stand of regenerating trees will again provide buffering of the hydrologic effects of snow and rain events.

Comment: *Scientific assessment of the cumulative impacts of timber management on wildlife is long overdue. This should be done on a watershed basis; piecemeal management of impacts to wildlife on a sale by sale basis is essentially meaningless, except in isolated cases where habitat*

is critical to a particular species. The wildlife impacts of the Highlands, Nataga Stretch, and Single Fifteen sales must be considered in this context. (LCC)

Response: As mentioned above in the response to the first comment the cumulative impacts of past sales were considered in the evaluation of the Kelsall watershed under the wildlife portion of the Forest Land Use Plan. The Department of Fish & Game, managers of the wildlife in the Haines State Forest, did not present concerns or evidence that this sale in combination with past harvesting would unduly negatively impact moose or other wildlife.

Comment: *DOF's FLUPs for individual timber sales provide no cost/benefit analysis for timber sales. It would appear only the plus side of the equation is considered. Negative impacts to the economy, such as loss of wilderness recreation, commercial, sport, and subsistence fishing, wildlife viewing, and hunting, as well as road maintenance should also be considered. While timber roads provide easier access for some of the above activities, evidence strongly suggests that wildlife populations generally decrease in direct proportion to timber road-building activity. (LCC)*

Response: Once an area is roaded it is not an ideal wilderness recreation setting. The Haines State Forest was created for multiple-use management and was not intended to be a wilderness area. The State Forest does have many areas with wilderness like qualities that are available for this type recreationist. Many people, locals as well as tourists, enjoy the roads constructed by these timber sales for recreational use activities such as fishing, wildlife viewing, sight-seeing and hunting among others. Road maintenance costs on the Haines State Forest have been borne primarily by the timber companies through timber sale contracts. The Department of Fish & Game (DF&G) controls hunting activities in the Haines State Forest and the Division of Forestry can work with the DF&G to control hunter access if necessary. DF&G did not express concern for the wildlife in this area as a result of this sale.

Comment: *We prefer small sales designed for operators who reside in the Chilkat Valley and provide primary and secondary processing of local forest products over the larger sized sales that attract larger companies from outside the local community. These larger sized companies are only interested in exporting logs in the round to overseas markets; This provides no long-term local employment and often competes with locals who are trying to establish small-scale long term sustainable industries that get the maximum economic yield from each board foot of timber cut. (LCC)*

Response: The Division of Forestry agrees that small sales designed for local operators which provide local processing of forest products are an important part of the local economy. These operators have done a good job in salvaging many of the beetle killed trees immediately adjacent to the road system. These operators have limited financial ability to construct roads to access many areas of the Haines State Forest. The Division of Forestry attempts to offer a mix of different sale sizes to meet the demands of both the large and smaller companies. Typically, if there is considerable road or bridge construction to access a proposed harvest area the smaller local contractors are financially unable to complete the sale. These local operators, typically,

cannot market a large volume of utility wood and tend to purchase only the higher quality wood from the forest.

VII. OPTIONS

After a review of the material and information discussed above, the following alternatives should be considered:

1. To continue the sale as proposed.
2. To modify the sale by making it larger or smaller.
3. Offer the sale at another time.
4. Not offer the sale.

A discussion of the four alternatives follows:

1. We believe that this is the best alternative at this time. This alternative will accelerate regeneration, develop a source of logs for the timber industry, and improve forest vigor. It also meets DNR's constitutional mandate encouraging the development of the state's renewable resources. The proposed action would also make use of the beetle killed spruce prior to further loss of market value.
2. The sale size was reduced in size from an original 170 acres to 90 acres. This sale size was selected to salvage as much of the dead and defective trees as possible without removing all of the trees from the area. Increasing the size of the sale would be possible by increasing the size of the unit to its original acreage or by extending the salvage to another unit further out the road system. Decreasing the size of the sale would likely result in an unsold timber sale. A smaller sale would not offer enough volume to amortize the cost of the necessary road construction. Decreasing the size of the sale would leave much of the dead and dying spruce trees and diseased hemlock in the sale area unharvested.
3. This alternative would fail to meet many of the objectives of the sale. Decay in dead trees sets in rapidly creating a loss in market value. There has been considerable loss in marketability of the dead wood already and any further delay would cause greater losses in net market value.
4. This alternative would result in not meeting any of the objectives outlined for this management action. Utilization of the forest resource would not be achieved, there would be no contribution to the state and local economy, and there would be no restoration of forest health. Regeneration in the proposed sale area would be significantly delayed.

VIII. ACMP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS

This area is not within a district coastal program, and is therefore subject to statewide standards (6 AAC 80). There are no known geophysical hazards or areas of historic or archaeological importance within the proposed sale area. Recreational and subsistence use of the area is low; no seafood processing is designated to occur in this area; there is no grazing or agriculture use of the area. Therefore, the sale does not conflict with the standards on geophysical hazards; historic, prehistoric, and archaeological resources; fish and seafood processing; subsistence and recreation; agricultural use.

This offering is consistent with the habitat standard because the Forest Practices Regulations preempt the habitat standards enacted under AS 46.40.

In addition, the sale does not cause an impediment to existing or future transportation or utility corridors, and is therefore consistent with that standard.

Laws and regulations regarding timber harvesting and the quality of air, land and water will apply, ensuring consistency.

IX. FINAL FINDING, DECISION AND ACMP CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

This sale as proposed in this finding is in the best interest of the State for the following reasons:

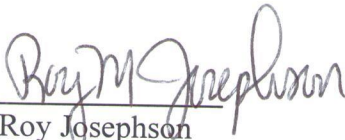
1. The sale would meet the objectives of the Haines State Forest Management Plan.
2. The sale would make wood available to the local timber industries to produce lumber products.
3. The sale would allow for the salvage of bark beetle killed spruce
4. The sale would provide road maintenance and repair which will provide for continued recreation use.
5. The impact of the sale on other uses, such as fish and wildlife habitat, is anticipated to be minimal.
6. The sale would provide for utilization of the area's annual allowable cut and make for a more productive, vigorous and healthy forest.

The findings presented have been reviewed and considered. The case file has been found to be complete. The requirements of all applicable statutes and regulations have been

satisfied. Therefore, it is the finding of the Director, that it is in the best interest of the State to approve this action under the authority of AS 38.05.035(e), AS 38.05.120.

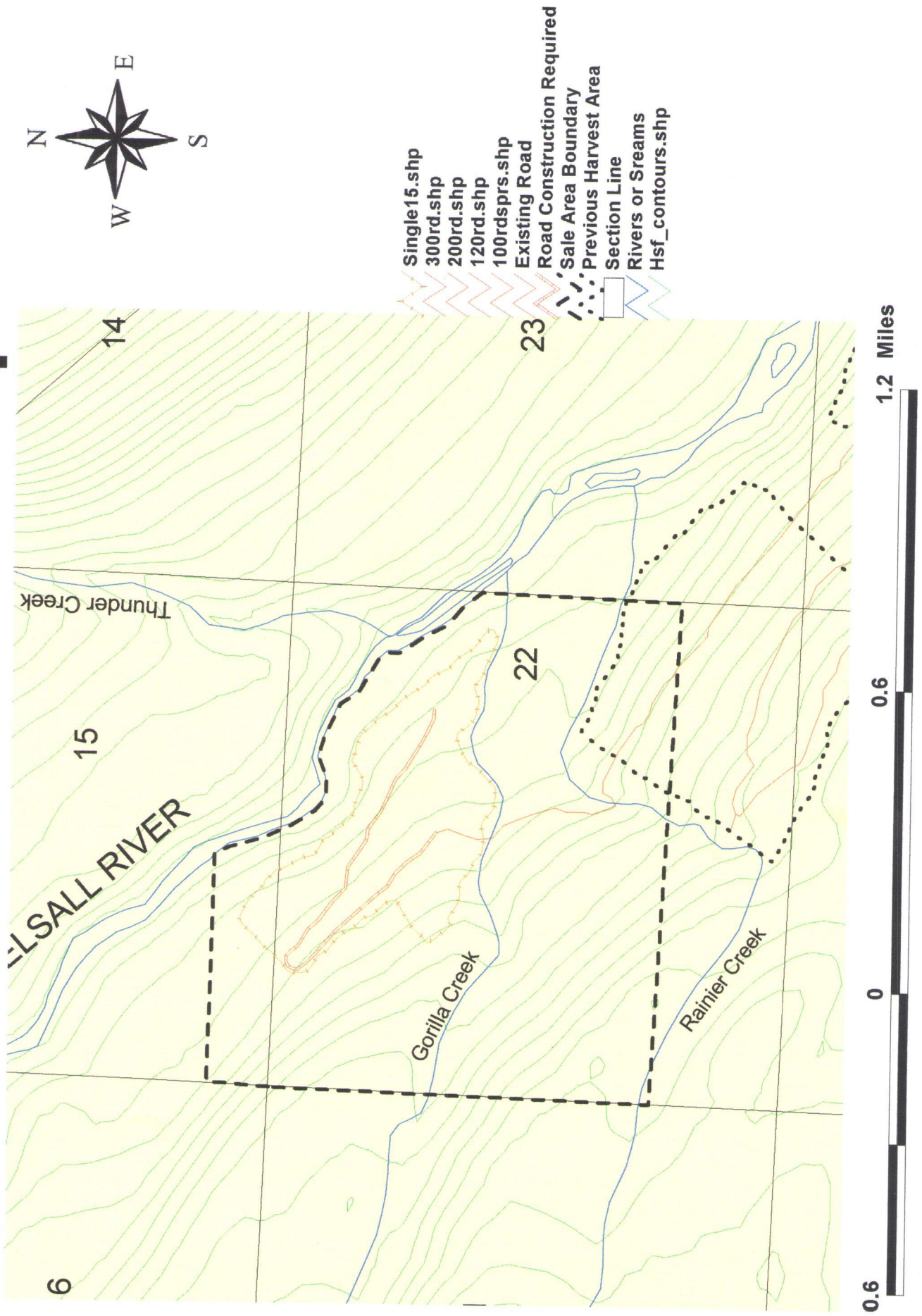
A person who meaningfully participated in comment on this decision and who is affected by the decision may appeal it, in accordance with AS 38.05.035(i)-(j), to John Shively, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Please include the appeal code number provided below. Any appeal must be received at the above address, or received by being faxed to 1-907-269-8918, by March 15, 2000. The appeal must comply with AS 38.05.035(j) and 11 AAC 02.030(a)(1)-(2) and (a)(4)-(8). If no appeal is filed by that date, this decision then goes into effect. It is the Division of Forestry's intent to offer this sale on or after March 28, 2000.

Appeal Code Number FOHN022400ADL106627.035

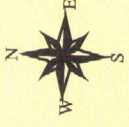

Roy Josephson
Haines Area Forester

2-24-00
Date

Single 15 - Sale Area Map



Haines State Forest - HARVEST UNIT MAP - Single 15 Timber Sale SE-728-H



Legend

Harvest Unit Bdry

Existing Road

Kelsall River

Gorilla Creek

300rd

